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Bangalore Mirror

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Bengaluru homebuyers are discovering prefab, concrete or steel frame houses, custom-made and modular, dropped off within months of order

HOMING BEACON

'Quick, durable, comes with minimal defects'

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Classic brick and mortar homes may be going out of fashion. Bengalureans are increasingly gravitating towards prefabricated modular homes.

As construction material costs skyrocket, prospective homeowners want a quick and durable option with minimal defects.

These are either prefabricated concrete houses or steel frame houses with precast concrete slabs.

Step inside Tanya John's house in Cambridge Layout, you will find well-tiled floors, a sculpted deck, and sleek walls with the colour of her choice: a modular steel frame house with off-site precast concrete slabs.

"This is a one-bedroom steel frame structure on our rooftop, done in 2020," said Tanya, who opted for this as it is lightweight and quickly done.

"The whole structure was installed very quickly, making the process convenient.

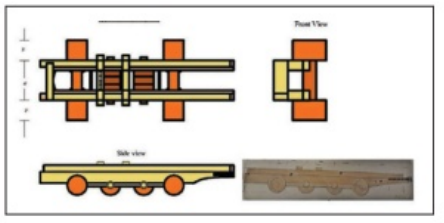
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"It hardly took us two months to get a two-floor 4,500 sq ft house... The house looks sleek and seamless

— Varun Atreya, homebuyer

Brisk on obelisk

How India moved 75-ft obelisk two centuries ago, sparking western curiosity



| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

We have so many architectural marvels around us. But it is still a mystery as to how the stones to make these wonders were transported when there was no advanced technology available back then.

Now, a duo has come up with an interesting experiment to reveal how our ancestors used technology for transportation — the researcher-designer duo has gleaned from a two-century-old long-forgotten plan of a carriage made in 1805 in Mysore, how a single 73-ft tall, six feet-wide block of granite, was transported through two miles of rocky terrain.

This block was chiseled and transformed to what is now the Josiah Webbe obelisk or the Rana Khambha near Srirangapatna.

Nidhin Olikara who's been an independent researcher of Mysore history for over 20 years said the British were curious as to how Indians who they considered to be inferior in technology to them, could carry and erect such a large obelisk when such a project was extremely difficult even in Europe. This is why they drew the plan of the carriage after it was designed and built entirely by Mysuru workmen, and also produced a scholarly article on this some years later in a journal in Edinburgh.

"I was intrigued at the description of the carriage used to carry this large mass which was only a few lines of text in the Edinburgh paper but was unable to get any more information about it. I incidentally stumbled upon the design of this carriage that was drawn to a scale at the British

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Colour correction

While many kids possess a natural talent with paints, a little guidance can help them go a longer way. Hobby Station is hosting fun art classes to teach children between five and nine years of age how to draw and colour. These lessons will also focus on teaching children the differences between primary and secondary colours.
Where: Zoom; Register: bookmyshow.com

02 Work of art

The Indian Music Experience (IME) is inviting working professionals, freelancers and creative people to #WorkFromMuseum at the museum. It's time to pack your bag and explore a new and creative environment to work with ease.
Working Days: Tuesday to Sunday
Timings: 10 am – 6 pm; Cost: Rs 250 per day
For queries: 9686602366

03 Play time

The pandemic restricted children to indoor activities for two years. Let your children come out of their shells with Summer Express, an in-person theatre workshop!
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: April and May
Details: Drop by Ranga Shankara

KAUSHIK JN

Artful dose
Hundreds thronged the 19th Chitra Santhe, the city's biggest street art fair organised by Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat (KCP) on Sunday. CM Basavaraj Bommai said KCP is the epicentre for Chitrakala and "Chitrakala needs to be extended all over the state. Action will be taken to establish Chitrakala Galleries in six regional spots."

Uniform mandate for SSLC exams miffs some

Wearing hijabs in exam centres not allowed, retaking tests if skipped not possible either, says primary, secondary education minister BC Nagesh

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SSLC exams commence Monday onwards and the education department has issued a circular stating students will be allowed to write the exams only if they are in uniform.

Now, this has led to a different controversy, or taken us back to an old one.

A section of students expressed that they don't want to write the exams without being allowed to wear hijabs. However, in a latest circular issued by the education department, hijabs are not allowed.

Meanwhile, educationists wrote to the education department advising them against making uniforms mandatory as many students have not bought uniforms as most had been attending online classes.

Educationist VP Niranjan Aradhya said, "Even many government schools have not distributed uniforms to the students. Generally, students are tense and anxious while writing their first board exam in the form of SSLC exams.

In this scenario making uniforms mandatory at the last minute can cause undue stress among the students. This rule is definitely not applicable to every student.

Hence, I request the education department officials not to take any action against students who fail to wear uniform in the exam centre as this will affect their morale."

A student organisation protesting in Mangaluru on Friday against university misusing of High Court verdict on hijab

D Shashi Kumar, general secretary of associated managements of primary and secondary schools in Karnataka, said, "We have to follow the High Court verdict related to the uniforms. Students should not wear any religious dresses. However, in the last two years, many schools had not insisted on uniforms due to the offline/online classes held in the last two years due to Covid pandemic. Hence, in this scenario, we want the government to dilute the mandatory and allow students to wear common uniforms."

Meanwhile, primary and secondary education minister BC Nagesh on Sunday said that wearing of hijabs will not be allowed during the 10th standard examination for the state board. The exams start on Monday and end on April 11. More than 8.76 lakh students are appearing for the exam in over 40,000 halls in 3,440 centres across the state.

> **"I request the education department to not take action against students who fail to wear uniforms... this will affect morale**
> – Niranjan Aradhya, educationist

"After the High Court order, we've not allowed that (hijab). We've given clarification that they (students with hijab) can come into the campus wearing the hijab but they cannot put it on in the classroom.

The same condition will apply during the exams," Nagesh told reporters here. He said that there retaking the exam is not an option for those who skip it.

"According to the Karnataka Education Act and the Rules, religious sentiments should not be a part of the uniform dress rule. The same notification, the HC has upheld. Tomorrow, there is no scope of violation of the dress code," Nagesh said.

Further, he said that arrangements have been made to ensure that the exam takes place smoothly.

(With inputs from agencies)

Residents worried sick about primate friends

After 3 monkeys die near HAL quarters, forest officials, activists look for infection's source

| Bellie.Thomas
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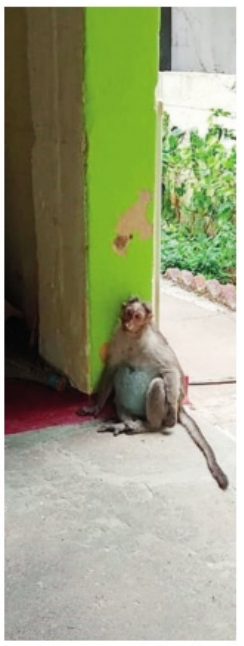
After a group of unwell monkeys started concerning residents near HAL quarters, they escalated the matter to authorities concerned so that the animals get proper treatment. People residing around the Jnana Jyothi School compound near HAL quarters have been observing that a group of around 6-8 monkeys among the over 30 monkeys in the area were not being their usual selves. "They had stopped eating over the couple of days and would sit at the same place all day-long, doing nothing. They all looked unwell and some of them were coughing and one of them was pregnant," said Range Forest Officer Shivarathreswara Swamy

Seeing the plight of unwell monkeys, a few residents informed the People For Animals (PFA) volunteers who came to the spot and tried to feed the monkeys with some medicines mixed with food and water.



But, the monkeys were not cooperating and only got irritated. The volunteers left after which the local residents informed the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) officials.

On March 22, an adult monkey fell dead and the residents immediately informed the KFD authorities, stating they suspect the monkeys have been infected with some kind of viral disease and it looks like it is getting spread to other monkeys as well. KFD officials headed by Assistant Conservator of Forests Charan GS along with the RFO, his subordinate DRFO Rukmini and others visited the spot. After conducting observations, they sent the dead body of the monkey for postmortem at the government veterinary hospital in Domlur.

Dr Harish performed the postmortem and found that the infection was to the lungs, which looked like pneumonia. The stomach of the monkey was also swollen. However, for a confirmatory diagnosis, the organ and the blood samples of the dead monkey was sent to the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, reports of which are awaited.

Later, two other monkeys died, one of them a pregnant female. Again the KFD officials along with wildlife activists visited the spot and observed that over six monkeys among the total troop of over 30 monkeys still looked lethargic and refused to eat or come down from the tree.

Deaths of the monkeys on the second day rattled KFD officials, who sent the bodies again to postmortem and requested a veterinary doctor to visit the spot. The postmortem was again conducted by Dr Harish, who said that one monkey had died of lung infection while the pregnant one died due to complications in delivery. However, viscera from the carcasses and blood samples of the two dead monkeys have been sent to the IAHVB in Hebbal.

Veterinarians also suspected that the unwell monkeys could have been victims of food poisoning as they might have consumed drainage water due to the heat. They also suspect rabies or Kyasanur forest disease. "We mixed a few medicines like some broad-spectrum antibiotics and multivitamins in water and bananas that have been kept in the vicinity of the monkeys. Except for three or four monkeys that refused to come down the tree, others drank the water and had bananas," Dr Harish told Bangalore MIrror.

The forest department officials have not deployed a forest watcher near the school to keep an eye on the monkeys. "Since the medicines were started, there has been noticeable improvement," said Arun Prasad, an urban wildlife activist.

Kundapur beach blues

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The Kodi beach in Kundapur found a unique phenomenon in which the blue waves that banged the sea recently. The phenomenon which occurs rarely in the sea due to dinoflagellates. It is an activation of bioluminescence in the sea.

The spectators and fishermen were surprised to see this new phenomenon. Earlier this was witnessed in 2020 in Kodi, Gangolli and in Beejadi areas. These colourful waves may be due to the waste which is mixing in the sea or maybe due to any other reason, experts opined.

Assistant Director of The Fisheries Department Ganesh said, "The nutrients which melt in the sea makes water blue. Magnesium, Calcium, Potassium, Chromium, Zinc and other metals melt in the sea and come up due to biological pumping. In a clean atmosphere, the visibility of colours is called Sea Nitrification. This will not affect the fish. Fishermen need not worry about this".

Dinesh Saranga who witnessed the phenomenon said, "While it was attractive to see blue waves spreading from Kodi to Beejadi, it also created tension".

The Outreach Officer in Reefwatch Marine Organisation Veril Serrao said, "The temperature, changes in the water, and sudden rains may be the reason for this phenomenon. This is a biochemical reaction with the proteins that may also be the reason. There is no detailed study on this. The same phenomenon also happens sometimes in forests too. It is generally found in January to February months."

Karnataka almost at zero covid fatalities

Only Bengaluru Urban, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Tumakuru and Dharwad have over 1% CFR

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While the first and second wave of covid pandemic reportedly saw an increased number of covid deaths, thus thereby increasing the case fatality rate (CFR), covid deaths during the third wave had been now.

Meanwhile, now, the covid deaths reported are in single digits; over 25 out of 30 districts have seen zero per cent CFR in the state.

According to the state war room data, in the last seven days, the CFR of Karnataka has been 2.31 per cent, while over 25 districts have had a CFR of zero percentage. While five districts – Bengaluru Urban, Dakshin Kannada, Hassan, Tumakuru and Dharwad – have a CFR above 1 per cent.

Hassan has the highest CFR with 66.67 per cent, followed by Dharwad at 25 per cent, Tumakuru with 12.50 per cent, Dakshina Kannada at 10 per cent, while Bengaluru Urban has a CFR of 1.57 per cent.

Ever since the pandemic began, it has been the aim of the State government to bring the CFR below 1 per cent. Experts pointed out that with the Omicron variant is less severe and the effect of vaccination has helped in keeping the severity of cases low, which has thereby caused less deaths. The total number of deaths reported in the last seven days is 13. The deaths are reported from Bengaluru Urban, Tumakuru, Hassan, Dakshin Kannada and Dharwad.

A public health expert said, "If it is seen that the positivity rate keeps going down for about two to four weeks, the fatality rate as well goes down. Currently, we have been seeing that the positivity rate has gone down. The daily positivity rate of the State has remained below 1 per cent, while even the CFR will thereby come down. While the severity had been low during the third wave, the number of deaths were minimal."

With five districts having CFR more than 1% , the experts stated that

when the total number of positive cases comes down, fewer deaths get reflected in a higher percentage, which is despite the absolute number of fatalities being low.

However, going by the over CFR figures of the State, 13 districts have less than 1 per cent, while 16 districts have CFR between 1 to 1.65 per cent. Haveri is the only district which has 2.49 per cent.

"We had reportedly seen a low number of deaths during the third wave.

Since February and March, the covid deaths have been consistent. A majority of those admitted in hospitals had reduced severity. Many did not require the need of oxygen and ventilators. Many had taken both the doses of vaccinations, which decreased severity in them. Most of the deaths that were seen were due to comorbidities," said a member from the State task force.

Karnataka's positivity rate has been low at 0.29 per cent, while even the 28 districts have seen less positivity rate below 0.29 per cent. Only two districts have reported higher than the State's average, with Chitradurga at 0.72 per cent and Bengaluru Urban at 0.60 per cent.

51 new cases, 1 death in Bengaluru

Karnataka reported 64 new covid-19 cases (including 51 in Bengaluru) and one death (92-year old man in Bengaluru) on Sunday. According to the State Health Department, the active number of covid patients reached 1,777.

MIRROR AUTO

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

Drive prudently and do your bit for the environment by following these eco-friendly driving tips

DRIVING GREEN IDEAS

PHOTOS: ISTOCK

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesgroup.com

As the world speeds towards clean energy, India still struggles with its excessive use of fuels particularly because of automobiles. While vehicles are an integral part of our lives, we also need to find sustainable ways to maintain them. Here are a few tips to reduce your carbon footprint while driving.

GET REGULAR TUNE-UPS

Maintaining your vehicle does more than keeping it running smoothly, it also ensures that it produces fewer emissions so regularly check your tyre pressure as under-inflated tyres can increase fuel consumption. Service your car regularly. A well-tuned car can use 15 per cent less fuel, this will not only make your car eco-friendlier, but it will also save you some gas money.

REPLACE YOUR AIR FILTER

It is important to change the air filter regularly to help prolong engine life and cause less damage to the environment. The engine air filter cleans the air entering your engine and protects its sensitive parts from debris and dust - if you neglect your air filter, your car is taking in (and thus emitting) particles and impurities that the atmosphere is then soaking in.

VEHICLE WEIGHT REDUCTION

The more your car weighs, the more fuel it uses - it's as simple as that and that is why it is important to reduce the weight of the vehicle to save energy, minimize brake and tire wear. The benefits of even modest vehicle weight reduction are significant, the car will possess a better horsepower/weight ratio enabling the vehicle to accelerate faster.

DRIVE SMARTER

Even if your car is in perfect working order, the way you drive makes a huge difference and by cutting out unnecessary acceleration and jumpy starts and stops, you'll end up saving more gas in the long run. Also, if you have a few places to go, make sure you are being as efficient as possible with your trip and for that plan your driving route for maximum efficiency and try to avoid making detours. According to automobile experts if you are waiting in your car, avoid idling the engine at all costs as restarting your car does not burn more fuel than leaving it idling which can also affect your maintenance scheduling.

LIMIT AC USAGE

You must know the proper way to use your air conditioning to avoid excessive stress on the engine or reducing your fuel mileage and for that try to avoid the instinct of turning the air-conditioning system on full blast as soon as you start the car and you can limit your car's AC with products such as window tint - which can reflect up to 78% of the sun's heat - and other DIY cooling car hacks.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Get the right service

Thinking about car service? Here are a few things you should consider before doing it

Respedit.Bangalore
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Time to get your car serviced. One needs to consider several factors before deciding on where to service - quality and cost of service, genuineness of spare parts, personal rapport with the mechanic, etc. Both authorised service centre and the independent workshop have their pros and cons. Here are a few things to keep in mind while making this decision.

WARRANTY ISSUE

If your car is under warranty, you must go to an authorised service centre without having a second thought. It's actually a no-brainer.

CHALLENGE OF LATEST TECHNOLOGY

The new-generation vehicles are advanced and come equipped with electronic systems like ECU, fuel systems, ignition and in-car entertainment systems. So, if you go to an authorised service centre, you can be assured of a good service. Local mechanic may or may not have the adequate understanding of these advanced systems.

RESALE ADVANTAGE

There are certain advantages of getting your car serviced from an authorised centre. Visiting an authorised centre creates an explicit service history of your car which is helpful during resale, specically in the case of premium cars. For instance, if you have get your car serviced from an authorised centre till 80,000 km and then switch to a local workshop, the prospective buyer will not be able to verify the service record. For premium vehicles, it is highly recommended to visit an authorised service centre.

EXPERTISE IS SUBJECTIVE

If you are going to the local workshop, you need to be very careful while choosing the mechanic. While it is ideal to personally supervise the local mechanic while he services your car, everybody does not have that much time. So, if you are going to the local workshop, you must trust him with his work. However, you should remember even the best of the local workshops may not deliver quality work.

THE GAP THAT SHOWS

Even if it is cosmetic upgrade like denting and painting, you end up compromising on quality if you visit a local mechanic. For instance, if your car has metallic paint and you get a part repainted at a local workshop, the colour won't match the rest of the car. However, if there is a renowned workshop in your area that deals in specific areas such as repaint jobs, you can consider it.

DON'T COUNT THE MONEY

It is a general misconception that authorised service centres are highly expensive. Usually, you need to visit an authorised service centre once a year unless something major has come up. Authorised centres may be slightly expensive but they deliver quality work.

SPECIALISATION GALORE

There are many options in aftermarket for getting your car serviced. In aftermarket there are workshops that specialise at different levels. There are independent workshops that specialise only in premium cars and then there is multi-brand car service centres and the ones that specialise only in one brand. So, if you need to get the basic job done like oil and filter change, washing or polishing, you can consider an independent workshop. However, if there's a major accidental repair or any other substantial work, you must visit the authorised service centre especially for body panels and genuine spare parts.

Before making a decision, carefully consider all the above aspects. You must ask for an estimate and itemise it before getting your car serviced or repaired. This will help you identify the cost of individual services and decide if you want to include discretionary ones.

MARUTI SUZUKI

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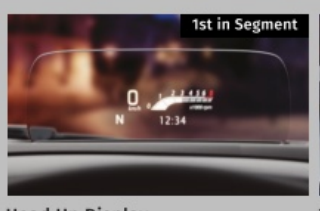

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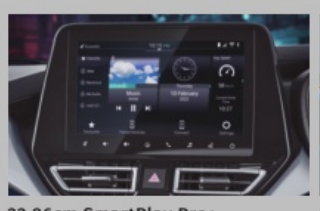

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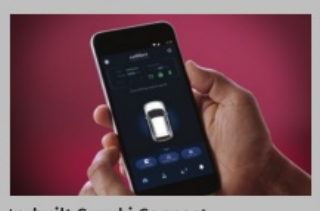

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Banaswadi in leafy trouble

Residents allege that irregular work by pourakarmikas leads to accidents on Ward 27 roads, demand authority's cooperation

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While it is always encouraged to have green cover in the neighbourhood, one problem that often does not get addressed is sweeping the dry leaves off the streets. For residents of Banaswadi, this issue has become a persistent problem with irregular street sweeping in the area.

According to an RTI filed by a resident, the people from Banaswadi ward paid Rs 18 crore as property taxes last year but they are not able to avail regular street sweeping in the area.

Residents complain that many areas in the Banaswadi ward are covered with dried leaves and the pourakarmikas tend to show up at irregular intervals. "We have been facing the issue for a while now. After multiple calls to BBMP, they eventually cleaned the streets after 3-4 weeks. We have to keep calling BBMP officials to get it done," said Pratham, a resident of HRBR Layout.

Sriram, a resident of the ward for the past 5-6 years, points out that the 5th Cross of 7C Main has been abandoned completely. "The biggest problem is that the pourakarmikas gather the leaves together in one place and when the tipper loads it inside, half of it falls out. After they leave, the wind blows it back to the roads."

Shanthini from OMBR Layout says: "All the dry waste is being dumped near my house. The workers also dump the waste gathered from the road near this site. The tippers won't pick up the twigs and leaves."

Piled up and scattered dry leaves dumped on a road in Banaswadi

Shanthini added that when she confronted one of the auto-tipper drivers, she found out that they don't have space to dump the garbage. "The auto-tipper driver told me that he is willing to take the garbage but there is no space to dump it. If BBMP does not have a dumping site, why are we paying taxes yearly."

> **"In most cases, BBMP SWM officers don't pick up residents' calls. Now, they are stating that many pourakarmikas have retired and they don't have a replacement**
>
> –Amith Nigli, resident

Without irregular sweeping of the streets, the area has become prone to accidents. "Generally, leaves & flowers fall on the street and so does construction waste mud or dust. The waste gets accumulated over time and when there is rain, bikers generally skid over the scattered waste and fall, leading to even major accidents. Many such incidents have happened. To avoid these, the least we expect is a road which is well swept and maintained," said Amith Nigli, a resident.

The Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act section 258 clearly states that street sweeping must be done every day, says Nigli, adding: "But we don't see that being executed in Banaswadi Ward 27. The supervisors who are paid by the BBMP are not monitoring the pourakarmikas' work most of the time and come only for mustering attendance. When residents try to reach out to the BBMP SWM officers, most of the time they don't pick up calls or cite a reason like they are in a meeting. The latest reason the BBMP SWM team is stating is that many pourakarmikas have retired and they don't have a replacement."

Daler Mehndi enters metaverse

#NEW DELHI

Bollywood and Punjabi singer Daler Mehndi has marked his presence in the metaverse after buying a piece of land in the virtual world and naming it as Balle Balle Land.

As per the media reports, it is India's first land acquisition in the metaverse. The pop singer launched the area on Holi this year and it will house a store selling NFTs. The Balle Balle Land also houses a gold statue of Daler Mehndi himself. He will be hosting Bollywood films and music concerts in his Balle Balle Land. Daler bought the land through the Metaverse platform PartyNite.

Sharat Chandra, VP- Research & Strategy, EarthID said, "Metaverse has become the new playground for entertainers, creators and brand marketers. The opportunity is too big to ignore."

Meta-commerce is a trillion-dollar opportunity, he added. By acquiring virtual real-estate in the metaverse, entertainers will be able to create, control new revenue models and avoid dependence on intermediary platforms, he added, expecting more storytellers to join the league.

Daler Mehndi's Instagram bio now reads, "First Metaverse Man, Owner of Balle Balle Land | Creator of Tunak Tunak & Tara Ra Ra singer-composer." The singer also posted a video sharing a glimpse of his land.

The pop singer launched Balle Balle Land on Holi

Abhay Aggarwal, Founder and CEO of Colexion, said that this step towards revolutionization would encourage the adoption of Web3.0 as a powerful means of sharing experience and connecting in the real world.

"India is surely moving ahead towards transformation and we are looking forward to more and more people participating in what we call the biggest revolution in the entire history," he added.

–ETimes

India, on the move

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Library," Olikara told BM.

With help of his designer-friend Jagadish Agasibagil, the duo re-designed 'sagane bandi' (load-carrying cart) — the CAD image generated helped the researchers to look more closely at the design.

"Now, as per the latest research of the old design work, we got to know that the cart was made of four axles that provided a unique combination of four outer wheels and four inner rollers. This innovative multi-axle and hybrid wheel-roller carriage with strategically placed strut bars and rings to facilitate haulage aided in even distribution of the massive weight on the carriage and helped to maneuver it on the rocky terrain without sinking into the earth. Such a design of a carriage made specifically to solve a particular logistical problem, designed and made entirely by Indian hands was so novel for the time that the authorities in London and Edinburgh separately commissioned a detailed drawing and a scientific paper of this carriage in 1807 and 1821, respectively," Olikara said adding that this innovative multi-axle hybrid wheel-roller carriage was hauled by men and not bullocks for better control.

Olikara said the carriage used a combination of wheels and rollers. With multiple axles, it was pulled over a rocky bed for over two miles using just the physical strength of men.

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No more pain

RS Palya

After Bangalore Mirror reported about the bad condition of MMET School Road in RS Palya of Ward 28, the stretch has been asphalted. Thanks to the publication.

Broken stretch

Sahakarnagar

People residing on 60ft Road, between A Block and B Block, in Sahakarnagar are facing trouble commuting on the stretch owing to the worn-out road. The BBMP must asphalt the stretch and fix the potholes on 13th Main Road before any casualties get reported.

Danger commuting

Gopalpura

The 2nd Cross road in Gopalpura is completely damaged with layers of the asphalt wearing out and craters being formed. This is posing a threat for commuters and pedestrians.

Leopard spotted on Rail Wheel Factory Campus

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

A leopard was spotted at the Rail Wheel Factory campus in Yelahanka on Saturday night. Sources said that the leopard had sneaked into the campus in the night and it was captured in the CCTV.

When the security personnel checked the footage on Sunday, they got to know about the wild cat inside the campus.

Forest department officials were alerted who placed a cage inside the campus. But RWF officials said that since the sighting on camera, there has been no sighting of the leopard. As the leopard could be in hiding, the forest personnel are on high alert and people have been asked to keep an eye out.

According to experts, leopards have always roamed on the outskirts of Bengaluru, but now are seen due to the widespread usage of CCTV. The experts said as these big cats stay well hidden, they are not easy to spot. In human-dense areas, they are largely nocturnal so can escape without being seen. Leopards are generally shy so they will avoid people. It is better to leave them alone and not crowd around them.

A leopard spotted on CCTV near the Rail Wheel Factory Campus in Yelahanka

Wild tusker killed

A wild elephant was killed when it was hit by a BMTC bus near BM Kaval off Kanakapura road on Friday night. Forest officials said that the elephant had headed to BM Kaval from Bannerghatta in search of food.

In the impact of the crash with the elephant, the bus pane was cracked.

The elephant crossed the road and escaped into darkness. When the forest department officials began the search operation on Saturday, they found the elephant's body 150 metres away from the accident spot.

Sources said that this elephant was spotted last week near UM Kaval when it had entered into fields.

Don't overexert yourself at gym

Experts shed light on dos, don'ts of exercising for young fitness enthusiasts

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

A 35-year-old woman died while lifting weights in a gym recently. This shocked fitness enthusiasts. BM spoke with experts to know the do's and don'ts of exercising.

Dr Divya Marina Fernandes, consultant, interventional cardiology and Heart Failure Specialist, Aster RV Hospital said: "We see athletes collapsing in gyms or on fields. This could mainly be attributed to conditions like hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and arrhythmias (irregular heart rhythm)."

She advised getting a treadmill test before starting endurance training even for those under 40. She said basic life-saving skills like CPR are good to know.

"Focus on building stamina and strength gradually and listen to your body. Take adequate rest when necessary. Avoid supplements unless they have been tested and certified by reputed bodies," she added.

A bad diet and other poor lifestyle habits are common among youngsters. Many are into performance-enhancing drugs and unscientifically marketed supplements. To add to it, heavy exercise without heeding to early symptoms is terrible for health.

Trainers need to be aware of sports medicine and the risks of over exercising, said Dr Deepak Krishnamurthy, senior interventional cardiologist, Sakra World Hospital.

A family history of heart attacks at a young age, symptoms like chest pain or uneasiness or effort intolerance are reasons to visit a cardiologist immediately. Do not delay in seeking advice.

Dr Sanjay Bhat, senior consultant, interventional cardiology, Aster CMI Hospital, said, "Regular physical exercise is important to keep bodies fit, combat health diseases, etc. However, over-exercising can be harmful."

> **"Regular exercise is important to keep bodies fit... But over-exercising can be harmful** – Dr Sanjay Bhat, Aster CMI Hospital

"It is important to warm up before exercising. A five-minute warm-up is critical for better performance and fewer injuries. Start slow. High intensity and irregular exercise can lead to heart problems... When you indulge in heavy workouts, it pushes the heart to produce abnormal rhythms. Unaccustomed exercise without adequate training and overindulging in heavy workouts to achieve quick results can do more harm than good," he said.

However, Shodhan Rai, Ekalavya awardee and celebrity fitness consultant, said, "A gym/health club is an hour-long affair. Workouts are a minuscule thing to cause these accidents. The real factor is what we do outside to improve or worsen health."

He advised precautions: "Managing stress, sleep and nutrition is of utmost importance. If you don't wake up feeling fresh, don't push yourself during your workout. Practise an easy stretching or breathing exercise. Under a qualified trainer, follow what is necessary and works best for your body to reach your goal instead of replicating another's workout... Proper guidance at the gym is crucial."

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Order a modular home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It is lightweight compared with a traditional brick and cement structure. Ours is a very old home; we did not feel comfortable with a bulky conventional structure," added Tanya.

More and more homeowners in the city are now discovering the almost-instant housing. Custom-made modular homes can be dropped off at your place within a couple of months of the order.

Anind Thomas, a resident of Artillery Road, opted for a prefab steel structure to avoid the brick-and-mortar hassle.

"We had just renovated our house and wanted to have another floor. We could have gone for a conventional structure, only if we had made provisions for it earlier. We were already living in the house; getting workers to build a structure sounded like a lengthy and painful affair. On the other hand, the steel-framed floor plan came across as a modular structure. It was seamless, easy, quick and unsupervised," said Thomas.

While many are opting for prefab structures as an extension of their already existing homes, some are getting these houses done right from the foundation. Varun Atreya, was sold for the speed and quality of modular houses.

"We went for a complete prefabricated concrete house to save time while ensuring quality. It is always easier to maintain quality in an industry setup. Every slab of my house is factory-tested and the structure is just assembled on-site. The concrete slabs get delivered with a certificate of the testing process. It hardly took us two months to get a two-floor house of 4,500 square feet. The house looks sleek and seamless as the walls do not require plastering," said Atreya.

These houses are also catching the fancy of eco-friendly homeowners.

"The modules are well ventilated. They can be recycled. Not only are they easy to deconstruct at the end of their lifespan, but you can also claim the steel value back," added Thomas.

Developers are certain the popularity of these modular houses is only going to rise.

"Many making the shift do not want to spend regular working hours on home construction. Constructing a home should be a hearty experience. The delivery of your home should be as smooth as the delivery of your new car. However, in reality, it is a hassle," said Sagar Muthappa, a city-based prefabricated home developer.

According to Muthappa, prefab homes are essentially traditional homes that can be your soon-to-be-home with the help of technology. And practically, the whole house can be prefabricated: from ceiling slabs to terrace blocks, from wall panels to columns and staircases, fitted on-site.

"We use pre-cast concrete, an off-site construction technology, to deliver houses quickly and give home builders a hassle-free and haggle-free experience. Today, most of the house contractors that are into building conventional houses are short of manpower, unaware of on-site safety measures and often cash-strapped. These factors create a huge expectation gap between the house owners and the builders, both in terms of quality and time. Even if you provide the best raw materials, it is not weighed out correctly, compromising the quality. These issues are eliminated in an industry setup," said Muthappa.

Developers said prefab modular homes are not just quick to set up but are durable too.

"A brick-and-mortar house that gets constructed in a year can be delivered within two to three months as a modular house. Moreover, dependency on labour is reduced by more than 50-60%. In terms of quality, we follow certain parameters," said a prefab home developer.

While the cost of owning a modular house can be heavier on your pocket when compared with conventional houses, users and developers said, the value for money and time is assured.

"Faster completion of a project implies lower overall cost. The cost of owning these homes is comparable when you take in time as a factor," Muthappa told BM.

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HEALTH TIP: Eggs, rich in protein, vitamins B12 and D and several antioxidants, can help to prevent chronic diseases

Eat papayas an hour before or after a meal; this can aid in healthy digestion

Ravina M Sachdev
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Relationship goals

Don't pin your hopes about your love life based on Instagram couples; the truth is a little different

If you're active on the 'gram, there are high chances that you've come across the term #RelationshipGoals plenty of times. Social media is full of adorable couples giving us major relationship goals all the time. However, have you ever stopped to wonder what goals you'd want in your relationship? Looking up to couples is alright, but basing your relationship ideals on what you see on social media isn't right. Your relationship isn't supposed to be based on a bunch of superficial ideals, but something more. Confused? Here are some real relationship goals that you should strive for.

If you're planning to spend your life with your partner, understanding and respecting each other's core values is a must. It's essential to communicate and discuss your individual values and beliefs such as religion, family dynamics, rituals, raising the kids, etc. You might not always agree, but you need to respect each other's viewpoints and ensure that it's not a deal-breaker. If you ask us, this is one of the biggest relationship goals out there!

> "If you're planning to spend your life with your partner, understanding and respecting each other's core values is a must

Is marriage on the cards?

Back in the day, getting married wasn't an option, but a requisite. However, that's not the case anymore. A lot of people don't believe in the institution of getting married and that's absolutely fine as long as both of you are on the same page. This is why it's essential to discuss marriage, meeting the parents and building a life together in the first year of dating.

About kids

Ensuring that the two of you are on the same page when it comes to starting a family might make things easier down the road. It would also be wise to talk about how many kids the two of you want in life and at what point. You could easily want to get pregnant a month after you're married, while your partner might want to hold off starting a family until a few years later.

In fitness and health

Going out every night and posting adorable pictures on Instagram is not a goal. Waking each other up every morning and helping each other be consistent with your workout routines are major relationship goals. Start by setting small goals like drinking a particular amount of water in a day and gradually work your way upwards from that.

Talk it out

You don't need us telling you that communication is the key in any relationship. Yes, we get that running out of things to talk about is a challenge most people face in a long-term relationship. However, it doesn't have to be that way. Share a funny incident from the past, talk about current affairs, movies, books, etc. That's not all, talking does not just mean about the good parts. If you're feeling upset about something, it would be best to convey your feelings to your partner rather than expecting them to understand on their own.

Date nights are it

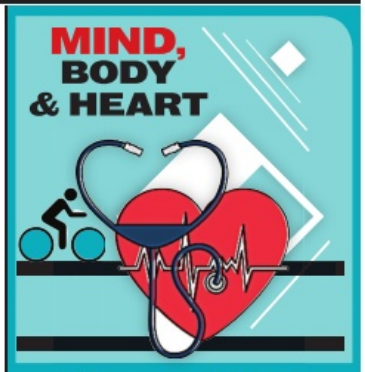
Whoever said that date nights are only for the first few years of a relationship didn't know what they were talking about. Date nights allow you to focus on one another and strengthen your connection as a couple. This is why you need to schedule date nights regularly to keep the spark alive. That being said, we aren't asking you to go on elaborate expensive dinners every week. No, simply engaging in an activity together would do. The idea is to spend quality time together. Try cooking together or playing a board game or even take up gardening together if it interests you.

Protect personal spaces

Instagram might have convinced you that couples need to do everything together, but let us tell you that's far from healthy. Everyone needs their personal space, married or not. Taking some time off to put yourself first and do things that matter to you will only make you feel better about yourself and put you in a better frame of mind. However, the trick is to get the balance right. Not giving your partner their space or putting too much distance between you will only ruin things. Discuss what works for both and work your way forward.

Sleep well

We've all heard the popular phrase, never go to bed angry. It's often dropped as a nugget of "wisdom" to couples before they tie the knot, but did you know that it's absolutely true? When you're upset, taking your anger to bed allows it to intensify and build from a simple conflict into something much more. Besides, being angry or holding a grudge can be exhausting. Finding a way to talk it out and neutralise the argument before calling it a day would help you both start the next day on a good note.



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a divorced 42-year-old woman who has been single for seven years. I'm really keen to get myself back on the dating scene, but I lack self-confidence. At the suggestion of one of my good friends, I recently went on a speed dating in the dark experience. But I was feeling so stressed beforehand that I drank rather excessively to try to calm my nerves.
The night then turned into a disaster - I was tipsy, couldn't see a thing and ended the night in A&E after tripping over the strap of my handbag.
This has served to knock me back even more and I can't find the right motivation to get back out there again. Do you have any suggestions?

COLEEN SAYS

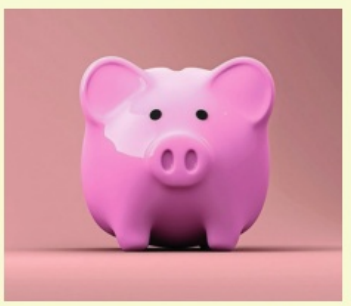
Yes, don't date in the dark again! I don't think speed dating is a serious way to meet a potential partner – it's more of a fun night out and a bit of a laugh, like going to bingo. Try some dating apps. Yes, you have to filter out who's genuine and who's not, but it worked for me.
Will it happen for you on the first date? Probably not, but it's fun and there's the opportunity to get to know someone a bit before you go on a date. Even the guys I didn't gel with in a romantic sense, I've kind of stayed friends with. And if you have friends on the dating scene, then do it together.
I did it with one of my friends who was ready to get back out there, too. It's important to be honest from the off, so don't lie about yourself and don't put up a profile shot from 20 years ago.
Also, don't drink for Dutch courage – it's all right to be nervous. I was so terrified before a date, I'd suddenly get really angry with myself for signing up for it and my daughter would have to calm me down.
I met someone amazing and quite a few of my colleagues are now married to people they met online. Good luck.
—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

MIRRORLIGHTS

Raise 'em money wise

According to a study, financial parenting results in cost savings for families as well as future financial rewards as children grow into adults. Modern money management tools can help lubricate the kids' financial journey. "Children, especially young girls, are not taught the basics of money management. It is important to understand that financial habits are usually instilled in kids at a very young age. As they learn a new language or a new skill, financial literacy is crucial for children, especially for girls, in their growing years. It will help them be financially independent in the future," says Ankit Gera, Junio's Co-Founder, who suggests simple strategies to accomplish this.

To start with, it's important to talk about money with children early and often. One of the best ways to begin is by letting them earn money or their weekly allowance. As a parent, let's say, give them their share of pocket money in exchange for doing chores at home. It will instil confidence, a sense of responsibility and the value of hard-earned money.



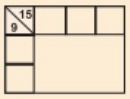
At the same time, use pocket money or weekly allowance as their first budget lesson. Teach young kids how to divide pocket money for spending and saving. Learning how to manage personal finances at a young age will make them confident in financial management. From a larger perspective, this will inculcate in them concepts on how to spend and why to save.

Financial parenting, undoubtedly, plays a significant role in carving a child's financial behaviour. If they know they want to buy something, help them understand how to track their earnings, spending and also guide them where to save, physically or digitally. For young kids, it could be a piggy bank, which at an older age can be shifted to bank accounts.

-Kayalvizhi Arivalan

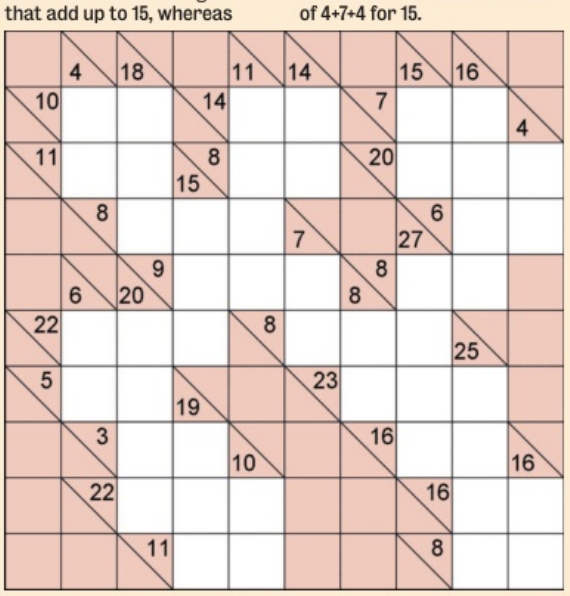
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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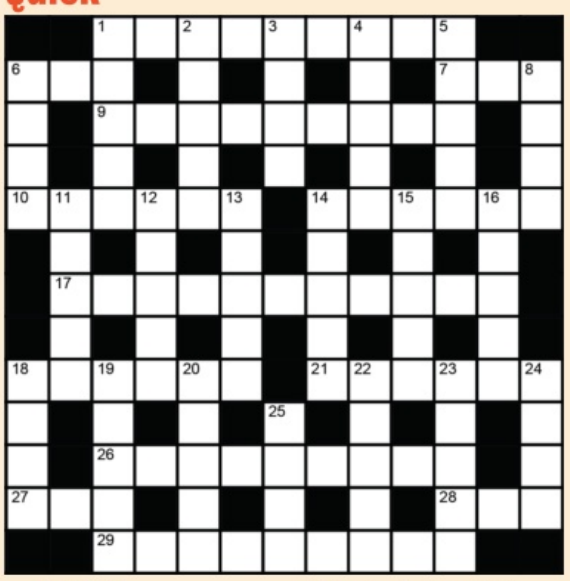


ACROSS

1 Diminished (9)
6 John Lennon's Yoko ___ (3)
7 Charged atom (3)
9 Karnataka lies on India's ___ - ___ coast (5-4)
10 One score and ten (6)
14 Earnest request (6)
17 Pulling back (11)
18 Sparing (6)
21 Military command (2,4)
26 Begins or starts a journey? (4,5)
27 ___ Arun : playback singer? (3)
28 Tenth month, in short (3)
29 Standard for comparison (9)

DOWN

1 Ex-India left-arm spinner Dilip (5)
2 Woo (5)
3 A returning sound (4)
4 Defame (5)
5 Short song (5)
6 Leave out (4)
8 At hand (4)
11 Axe wielder? (5)
12 Label differently (5)
13 Sing partly falsetto (5)
14 La Paz changed to a public place? (5)
15 Nimble (5)
16 Rims or borders (5)
18 Japanese mountain (4)
19 Recant (5)
20 Following (5)
22 Sun hat - "a rite" changed ? (5)
23 Ex-India batsman Mankad (5)
24 Way out (4)
25 Flying saucers (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS P

XKDX'R LKA MAO JHDCCM CSGH. XKH EHAECH MAO ZDF XKSFG AOX CAOY SF BJAFX AB.

Linemaro

You shouldn't wear makeup. It's messing with perfection!

Mindchow

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does

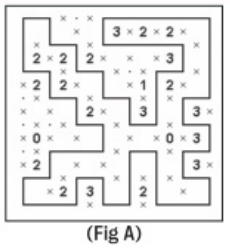
Joke of the day

I was reading in the paper today about this dwarf that got pick pocketed. How could anyone stoop so low?

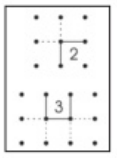
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

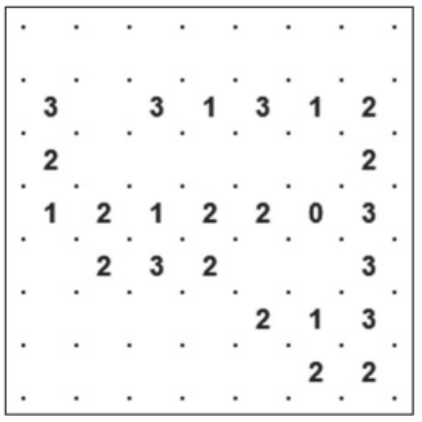


(Fig B) Not Allowed

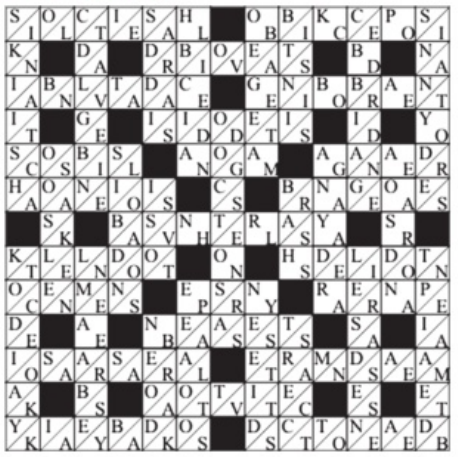
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				E
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

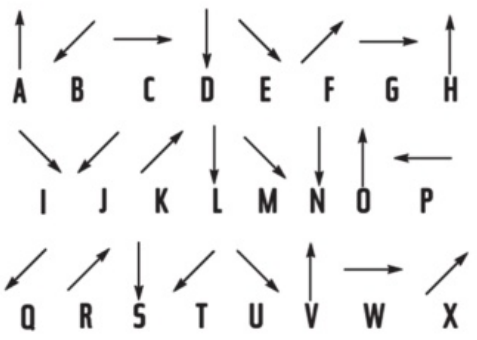
1 Grebe; 6 Ex Doe; 7 Touts; 8 A race; 9 Sawed

DOWN

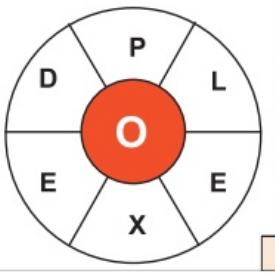
1 Wears; 2 Taxer; 3 Do OBE; 4 Deuce; 5 Stage

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

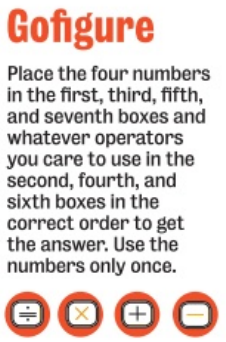
SudokuChallenge

				6		1	7	
8			9					
3		5			4	6		
		4	1		7		5	
2								1
	6		4		5	3		
		1	6			7		8
					9			2
	4	9		8				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

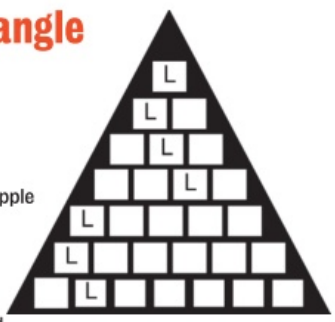
Differences: 1. Handle is longer. 2. Label is missing. 3. Doorknob is different. 4. Fingers are not showing. 5. Window in door is missing. 6. Apron bow is different.

Riddler

What phrase is represented below? HEA wooden stick VEN HEA wooden stick + sulphur head VEN HEA wooden stick + sulphur head + phosphorus tip VEN

Alpha triangle

1 The Twelfth letter
2 French article
3 Kind of wing
4 School starter
5 Stereotype
6 Reactive
7 Bending easily; supple



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be very happy. Your losses may convert into profits. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You may have some changes in your place, position or responsibilities at work, in terms of promotion. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and love birds may make important decisions in terms of marriage, with the help of relatives or friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon. Your health may be good today .You may visit some religious places with family or friends. You may plan to donate funds to any religious place or to some charity. Property-related deals may get done. You may plan for an overseas trip related to work.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be a victim of conspiracies. You should avoid being involved in controversies; your strong willpower and blessings from elders may protect you from the critical situation. You are advised to avoid making arguments in your love life. You should also avoid rash driving or any adventure trip.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you will be happy. You may feel peace of mind. Your focus towards your goals will be very good. You may experience romantic moments with your spouse. Your bonding with your spouse may become stronger now. You will also be busy with other domestic issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be more enthusiastic. Your performance at work may be good; it may boost your terms with seniors. You may get new responsibilities in terms of promotions. In legal matters, you may hear good news. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be able to complete difficult tasks very easily. This may boost your confidence level. Your past investments may pay you in good gains. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; it may waste your precious time.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is not good. You may feel unhappy and dissatisfied with your current situation. You are advised to keep patience. You should not make any decision in a hurry. You are advised to take care of your parents.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be enthusiastic. Your focus towards your goals may be very good. You may easily achieve your target. You are likely to go for short work-related trips, which may give you benefits in the near future. Your colleagues and friends may help you in the completion of some important projects.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by Jupiter and the moon. You may expect to get some rewards for your social services. You are appreciated by your seniors; you may also get promotions. Your losses may convert into profits now, which will increase liquidity in the business. You will plan to invest more capital into the family business. This will increase your family business in the near future.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel happy; your health is also good. This may give you inner strength and self confidence. Your conscience may not allow you to manipulate the messy task to maintain your reputation around your environment. Your social prestige will increase.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses due to your speaking skills while talking with anyone. Love birds should be careful in discussions, otherwise, their relationship may get affected.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may find mental peace. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which may increase liquidity. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles may find a suitable match. Love birds may decide to get married. Students will be blessed by good karma.

KIDZONE

Madhurya Sarathy, 9 Years, Ganga International School

Soundarya Sarathy, 14 Years, Soundarya High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=√[41–√[21+√(19–3)]]
=√[41–√[21+√(16)]]
=√[41–√(21+√16)]
=√[41–√(21+4)]
=√[41–√25]
=√(41–5)
=√36
=6

QUOTE UNCODE
That's who you really like. The people you can think out loud in front of.

BULL'S EYE
dole, dope, elope, eloped, epode, elope, lope, loped, plod, pole, poled

FAST FIVE

R	E	B	E	G
E	X	O	D	E
S	T	O	U	T
A	R	E	C	A
W	A	D	E	S

STRIKE OUT

S	O	C	I	A	L	■	B	I	C	E	P	S	■	■
N	■	A	■	D	I	V	E	S	■	B	■	A	■	■
I	N	V	A	D	E	■	G	I	B	B	E	T	■	■
A	■	B	■	A	T	T	I	C	■	E	■	E	■	■
I	S	R	A	E	L	■	T	A	N	D	E	M	■	■
D	■	A	■	B	E	S	E	T	■	A	■	■	■	■
O	N	E	S	■	P	R	Y	■	R	E	N	E	■	■
K	E	N	D	O	■	H	E	L	O	T	■	■	■	■
K	■	A	S	H	T	R	A	Y	■	R	■	■	■	■
H	A	N	O	I	■	C	■	R	A	G	A	S	■	■
C	O	I	L	■	N	O	M	■	G	N	A	R	■	■
T	E	■	S	I	D	E	S	■	I	■	Y	■	■	■
N	■	A	■	D	I	V	E	S	■	B	■	A	■	■
K	A	V	A	K	S	■	S	T	O	N	E	D	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
P. It is the only arrow pointing to the left.

RIDDLER
A Match made in Heaven! A match (wooden stick + sulphur head + phosphorus tip, which are the components of matches) is being made in HEAVEN

SUDOKU

6	4	9	7	8	2	5	1	3
7	8	3	5	1	9	4	6	2
5	2	1	6	4	3	7	9	8
1	6	8	4	9	5	3	2	7
2	5	7	8	3	6	9	4	1
9	3	4	1	2	7	8	5	6
3	1	5	2	7	4	6	8	9
8	7	6	9	5	1	2	3	4
4	9	2	3	6	8	1	7	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A Match made in Heaven! A match (wooden stick + sulphur head + phosphorus tip, which are the components of matches) is being made in HEAVEN

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 8 + 6 – 8 = 13
Medium
5 + 9 / 2 + 3 = 10
Hard
2 – 2 x 2 + 8 = 8

LOOP

KAKURO

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Love's in the air

Ahead of the 2022 Oscars, Taylor Swift and Joe Alwyn made a rare public appearance, hitting up the CAA Pre-Oscar Party and were spotted looking much in love.

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Monday, March 28, 2022
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

INTERVIEW | RAASHII KHANNA, ACTOR

Not just a pretty face!

Actor Raashii Khanna talks about the various stereotypes she had to face in the industry

Raashii Khanna is basking in the success of her first Hindi web series 'Rudra: The Edge of Darkness', co-starring Ajay Devgn.

After a smooth Bollywood debut, Raashii jumped straight to foray into the South film industry and tasted instant success with her critically acclaimed Tollywood debut 'Oohalu Gusagusalade', co-starring Naga Saurya.

The 31-year-old actor opens up about her secret to success in her acting career, returning to Bollywood after almost 9 years, her experience in the South industry, handling criticism and more.

From 'Madras Café' in 2013 to 'Yodha' in 2022, it's taken you quite a long time to return to Bollywood, whereas you had a series of Tamil and Telugu films back to back. Was there a dearth of offers from Bollywood?

After I did 'Madras Café' there was no plan that I want to do Bollywood films now or only South. I was looking for content and I got it in the South when I signed my first Telugu film 'Oohalu Gusagusalade', it was a great film. At that time I didn't get the film offers that I wanted, I was clear that I will only sign a certain kind of film, I just don't want to be a filler in a film. South films opened up that avenue for me and gave me a lot more than what I was asking for. I just went with the flow and never thought that I have to go back to Hindi. This is because it's cinema and language doesn't matter. Cinema is a language in itself.

● Do you fear being stereotyped?

I don't think so. I won't get stereotyped, because I have done commercial films in the South where there is not much for the girl to do but just look pretty. I have done Tamil and Telugu love stories with good characters for that matter. I have been in the Malayalam film industry where one can't survive without acting and now in Hindi. The best part is that I have broken all those stereotypes which were getting created in the South. It all got shattered after 'Rudra' because I played a different character with so many grey shades that you can't really stereotype me after that.

Vijay Deverakonda, Naga Chaitanya, Prithviraj, Venkatesh, Mohanlal, Ravi Teja, Jr NTR - you've worked with some greats of South cinema. Were there apprehensions working with them?

Honestly, I have never been starstruck. I think it has helped me. I am a confident actor. Even if I am in a frame with whoever it is, I stay true to my character because if I say that I am intimidated, then I have failed myself as an actor. Acting is my craft. I think I have never really bothered who is in front of me, I have always cared about my character and scene, that's what I have done.

● These days celebs have to maintain an active presence on social media. How do you deal with the negativity that comes along with fame?

I have been in the industry for so long that I can tell you that the negativity does not bother me at all. This comes from a place probably because I am very spiritual. The negativity is all for attention, most of it I would say. As an actor, obviously, criticism helps you grow but I don't see criticism there, it's just bashing people left, right and centre. It doesn't bother me because it doesn't make me sad. I know my limitations, positives and negatives. I keep working hard on myself and such things don't bother me.

There's always a positive side as well…

There is, yes! There is so much love I take for me.

● There have been a couple of link-up stories in the past. Are you dating?

I won't answer that question ever! You will see me if I am married or have kids, I don't have to answer. I feel my personal life is my own. If you want to know about my film, I will tell you. It's called personal life for a reason, it will be personal.

● What are your thoughts about sexism in the entertainment industry?

First thing I believe is that women need to start supporting each other. I do see that happening but I don't know how genuine it is. Personally, I think we need to root for each other and not pull each other down, then only we can go forward in life as women together. Of course, there are many women who helped us to come to this place, half of the freedom is because of the women who have come before us. We have to take that fight forward but we have to do it in support of each other. We are still far away from equality but we are getting there very slowly.

To tell us today that we are equal to men, I don't see that in the work state. There is so much disparity in pay itself, women don't even get sometimes 1% of what men get, right? We are putting in the time, effort and energy and still not given the same, because women are easily replaceable.

● What about the South film industry?

In the South, they will label you as 'lady', 'lass', 'milky beauty' and it will only stop if you fight back. Half of the time it comes out because of the love fans have for you, but basic objectification is the problem. They think a woman is to objectify, They don't understand between admiring a woman and objectifying because the problem is at the education level, what we teach them as kids. If women are not educated, they will think all this is right.

I think it's fine to admire a woman and not objectify them.

● Have you ever been taken aback by any such experience during your career in South or Bollywood?

I don't know about sexism really, but sometimes I have lost out on roles because people thought I was too pretty. There's a certain stereotype that has been created that you can either be a glamour doll or a great actor, you can't be both. Some people actually rejected me saying, 'No no, but you are too pretty for the role. We can't see you like this'. I am like, 'Take my audition and see if I can act!'

Trikona is creativity multiplied by three

The makers of film Trikona are trying something experimental. Made in Kannada, Telugu, and Tamil, the film will be different for each language. The movie starts at different points in the different languages. There are editing modifications too as per the tastes of different language audiences.

Producers of the film have decided to release the Kannada version first on April 1, 2022. The other languages will follow in the later weeks.

Rajashekhar is a director who turns producer for Trikona. He has written the story for Trikona. The director of three movies said, "When I narrated a story to the director Chandrakanth, he gave different dimensions to it. So, I decided to make him direct this movie. The script runs in three age groups -- 25, 45 and 65 years. It is an action thriller. But it also has a dash of comedy. This is a new type of narration not seen before in Kannada movies. The director Chandrakanth earlier directed the movie 1-4-3."

He said they have shot more than 50 days in four schedules. The shooting was held in Bengaluru, Puttur, Mangaluru, Subramanya, Sakaleshpur, Hassan, and other places. "If this movie succeeds in a big way, it is really a proud moment for us in the Kannada film industry. We shot for 50 days, but all of us worked for eight months to edit the movie. It was during the editing that we came up with the plan to have three different types of endings and beginnings. This will give different experiences in different languages," he said.

The director Chandrakanth said it was a story about how people react when death appears and when the emotions of patience, strength, and ego face each other.

Suresh Heblikar, Lakshmi, Sharat Lohitashwa, Sudharani, Achyut Kumar, Sadhu Kokila play lead roles. Mr.India title winner Marutesh also has an important role. DOP is Srinivasa Vinnakota and music is by Surenrdanath.

Rajashekhar, the producer earlier directed Burfi, Parole, and Amritavani.

–Prakash VL